

**WHISTLEBLOWING AND RETALIATION**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on whistleblowing and retaliation in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Testimony was heard from Elaine Kaplan, Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Richard J. Griffin, Inspector General; Eugene A. Brickhouse, Assistant Secretary, Human Resources and Administration; and Leigh Bradley, General Counsel; and public witnesses.

**DISABILITY BENEFICIARIES—BARRIERS PREVENTING RETURN TO WORK**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing on Barriers Preventing Disability Beneficiaries from Returning to Work. Testimony was heard from Representatives Johnson of Connecticut and Ramstad; Kenneth S. Apfel, Commissioner, SSA; Cynthia M. Fagnoni, Director, Income Security Issues, Health, Education and Human Services Division, GAO; and public witnesses.

**BRIEFING—COX/DICKS COMMITTEE FINDINGS**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Findings of the Cox/Dicks Committee. The Committee was briefed by Representatives Cox and Dicks.

**Joint Meetings****BANKRUPTCY REFORM**

*Joint Meeting:* Senate Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts concluded joint hearings with the House Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law on bankruptcy reform issues, after receiving testimony from Dean Sheaffer, Boscov's Department Store, Inc., Laurel Dale, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the National Retail Federation; Bruce L. Hammonds, MBNA America Bank, Wilmington, Delaware; Carol J. Kenner, United States Bankruptcy Judge, for the District of Massachusetts, Gary Klein, National Consumer Law Center, and Elizabeth Warren, Harvard Law School, all of Boston, Massachusetts; Larry Nuss, Cedar Falls Community Credit Union, Cedar Falls, Iowa, on behalf of the Credit Union National Association, Inc.; Edith Hollan Jones, United States Court of Appeals Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Houston, Texas, on behalf of the National Bankruptcy Review Commission; Judith Greenstone Miller, Clark Hill, Birmingham, Michigan, on behalf of the Commercial Law League of America; and Todd Zywicki, George

Mason University School of Law, Arlington, Virginia.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1999**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, to hold oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, 2 p.m., SD-366.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings on President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SD-226.

**House**

*Committee on Commerce,* Subcommittee on Energy and Power, to continue hearings on H.R. 45, Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1999, 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on International Relations,* Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, hearing on Foreign Relations Authorization for Fiscal Year 2000-2001, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business,* hearing on S. 314, Small Business Year 2000 Readiness Act, 10:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

**CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD**

**Week of March 15 through March 20, 1999**

**Senate Chamber**

Senate will not be in session on Friday, March 12, 1999.

**Senate Committees**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Armed Services:* March 18, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings on the readiness of the United States Air Force and Army operating forces, 2 p.m., SH-216.

*Committee on the Budget:* March 16, business Meeting to mark up a proposed concurrent resolution setting forth the fiscal year 2000 budget for the Federal Government, 2:30 p.m., SD-608.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* March 16, Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, to resume oversight hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2000 for the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, 2 p.m., SD-366.

March 17, Full Committee, with the Committee on Foreign Relations, to hold joint hearings on proposals to expand Iraqi oil for food, 10 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* March 16, Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property,